

# NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS*

*RONALD J. TENPAS  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY*

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*Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700*

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***For Immediate Release***

**MAY 11, 2004**

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on May 6, 2004, **DANIEL W. ROSS** a/k/a “Chino,” age 20, of Chicago, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois. ROSS, who had previously been convicted by a jury of conspiracy to distribute more than five grams of crack cocaine and possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine, was sentenced to 360 months’ imprisonment, 5 years supervised release and was fined \$1200.

The investigation established that between December 2001 and February 5, 2002, ROSS, and co-defendants, MARIO GORDON, a/k/a “Rio,” and KENNETH JOHNS, a/k/a “Kilo,” were transporting multi-ounce amounts of crack cocaine from Chicago to Carbondale for distribution. In Carbondale, most of the crack cocaine was distributed from Brentwood Commons Apartments and the Sunset Motel. When ROSS was stopped in Iroquois County, on January 16, 2002, an Illinois State Trooper located approximately 4 ounces of crack cocaine in ROSS’s rental vehicle. When ROSS was arrested in Carbondale, on February 4, 2002, he attempted to hide crack cocaine in the backseat of a Carbondale Police Department squad car. The sentencing court found that ROSS was involved with over 1.5 kilograms of crack cocaine. ROSS received an enhanced sentence because he, GORDON, and JOHNS possessed guns during their crack cocaine dealing. GORDON and JOHNS were previously sentenced to 360 months’ imprisonment and 168 months’ imprisonment, respectively, for their role in the crack cocaine conspiracy. At the time of their illegal drug activity in Carbondale, ROSS, GORDON, and JOHNS all had prior firearms convictions.

The investigation was conducted by the Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff’s Office, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, Drug Enforcement Administration, pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses in the system that will get them the most time. The Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney’s Office, Jackson County States Attorney’s Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff’s Office, Murphysboro Police Department, and Southern Illinois Enforcement Group.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.